LEARNING ABOUT THE EARTH



BLASTOFF! READERS 3

LEARNING ABOUT THE EARTH

Forests

by Emily K. Green

BLASTOFF! READERS 3

BELLWETHER MEDIA • MINNEAPOLIS, MN



Note to Librarians, Teachers, and Parents:

Blastoff! Readers are carefully developed by literacy experts and combine standards-based content with developmentally appropriate text.

Level 1 provides the most support through repetition of high-frequency words, light text, predictable sentence patterns, and strong visual support.

Level 2 offers early readers a bit more challenge through varied simple sentences, increased text load, and less repetition of high-frequency words.

Level 3 advances early-fluent readers toward fluency through increased text and concept load, less reliance on visuals, longer sentences, and more literary language.

Whichever book is right for your reader, Blastoff! Readers are the perfect books to build confidence and encourage a love of reading that will last a lifetime!

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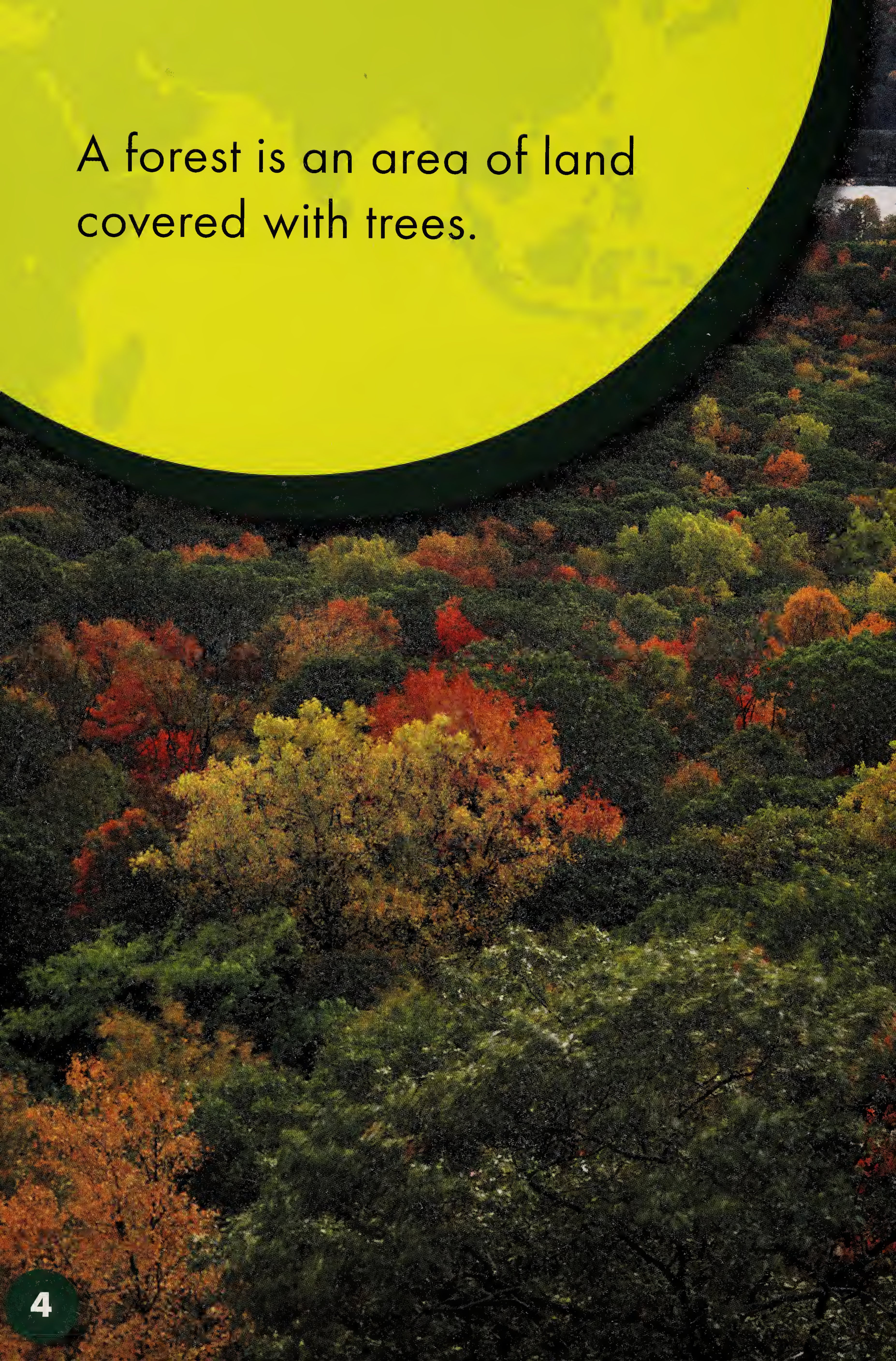
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A forest is an area of land covered with trees.



Many different kinds of trees grow in a forest.



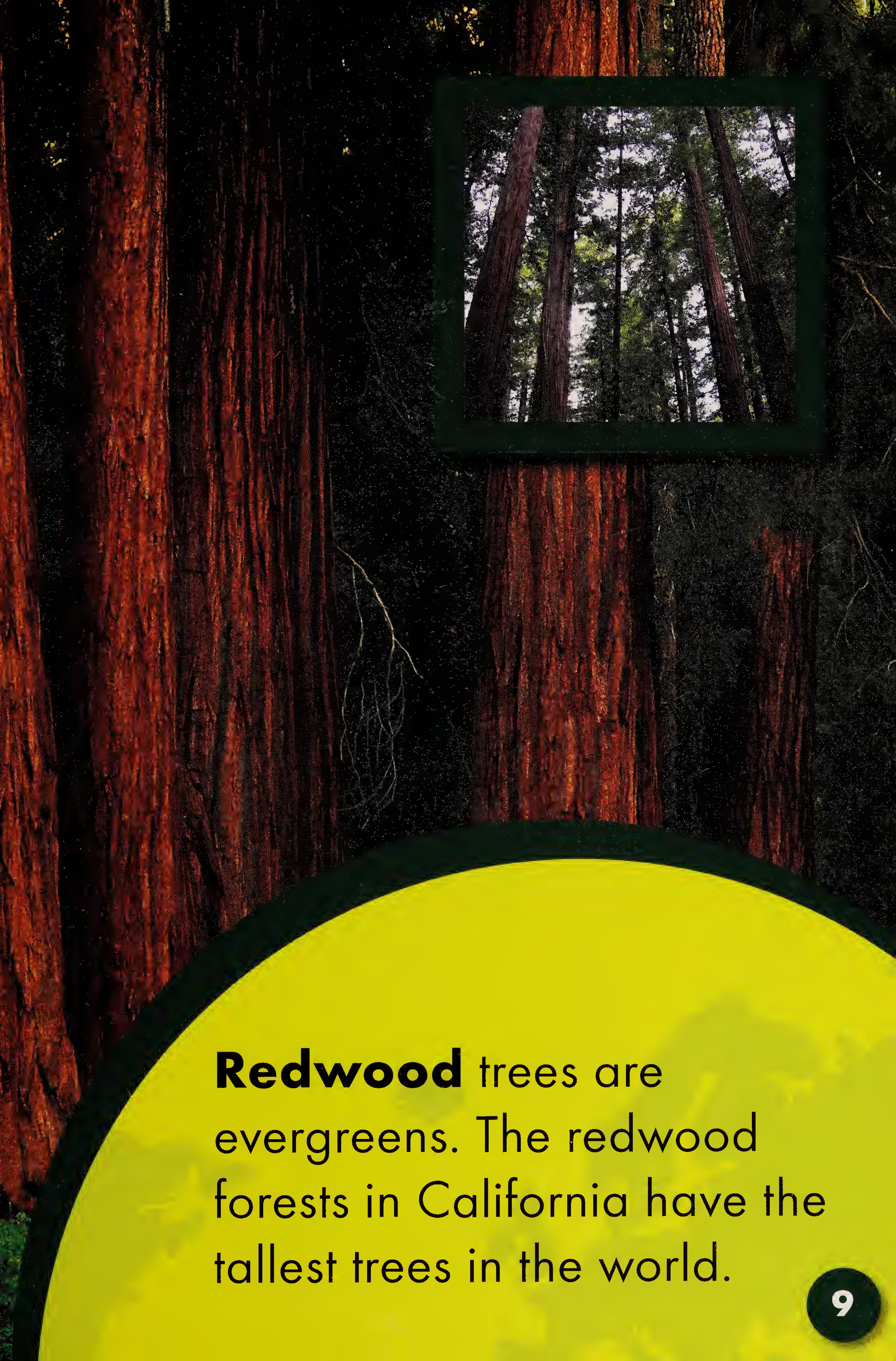
Evergreen trees grow in some forests. Most evergreen trees have **needles** for their leaves.

The needles do not fall off the trees in autumn. Evergreen forests stay green in winter.



Fir, pine, and spruce are some kinds of evergreen trees.

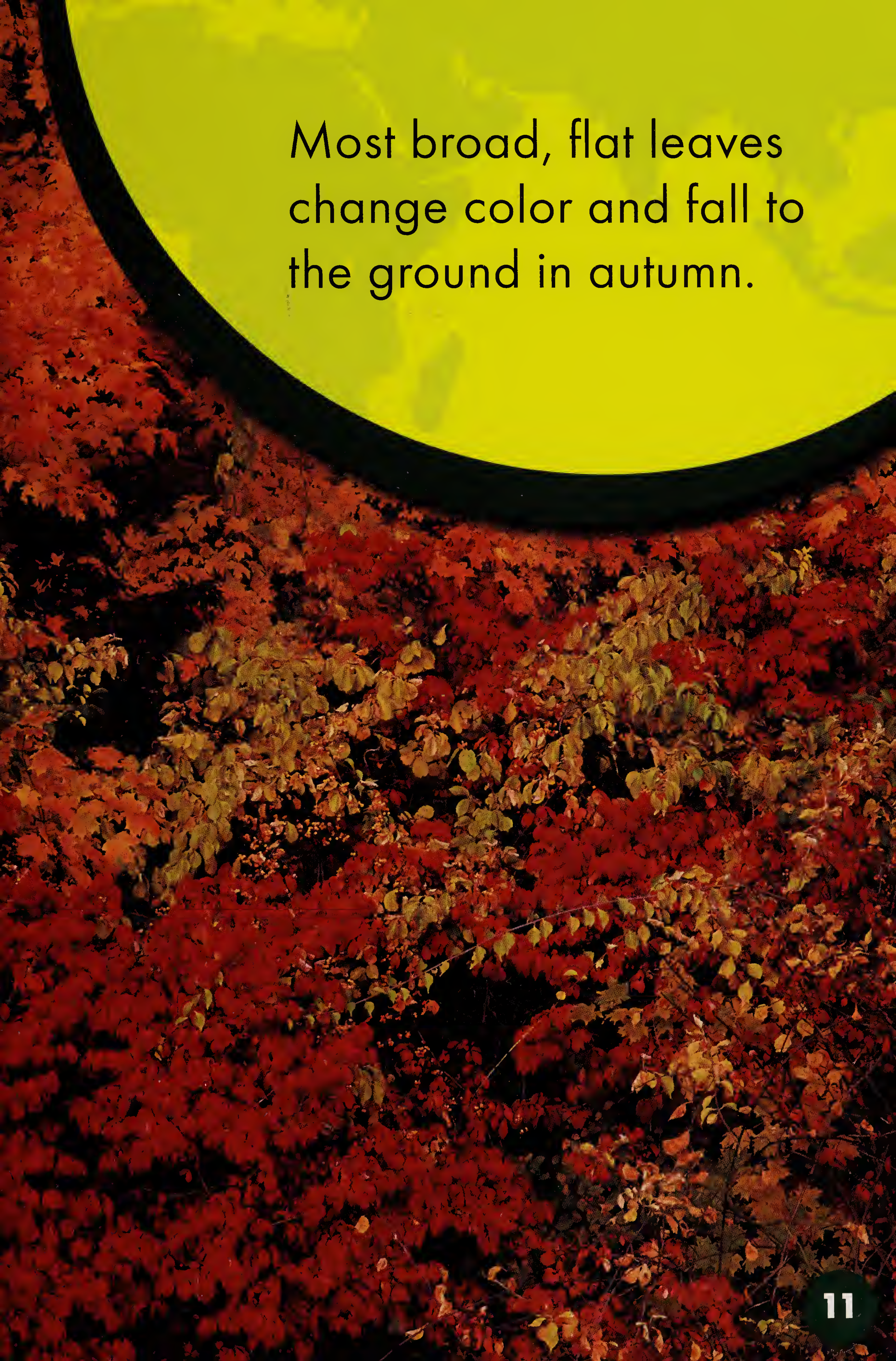




Redwood trees are evergreens. The redwood forests in California have the tallest trees in the world.



Trees with broad, flat leaves grow in some forests.



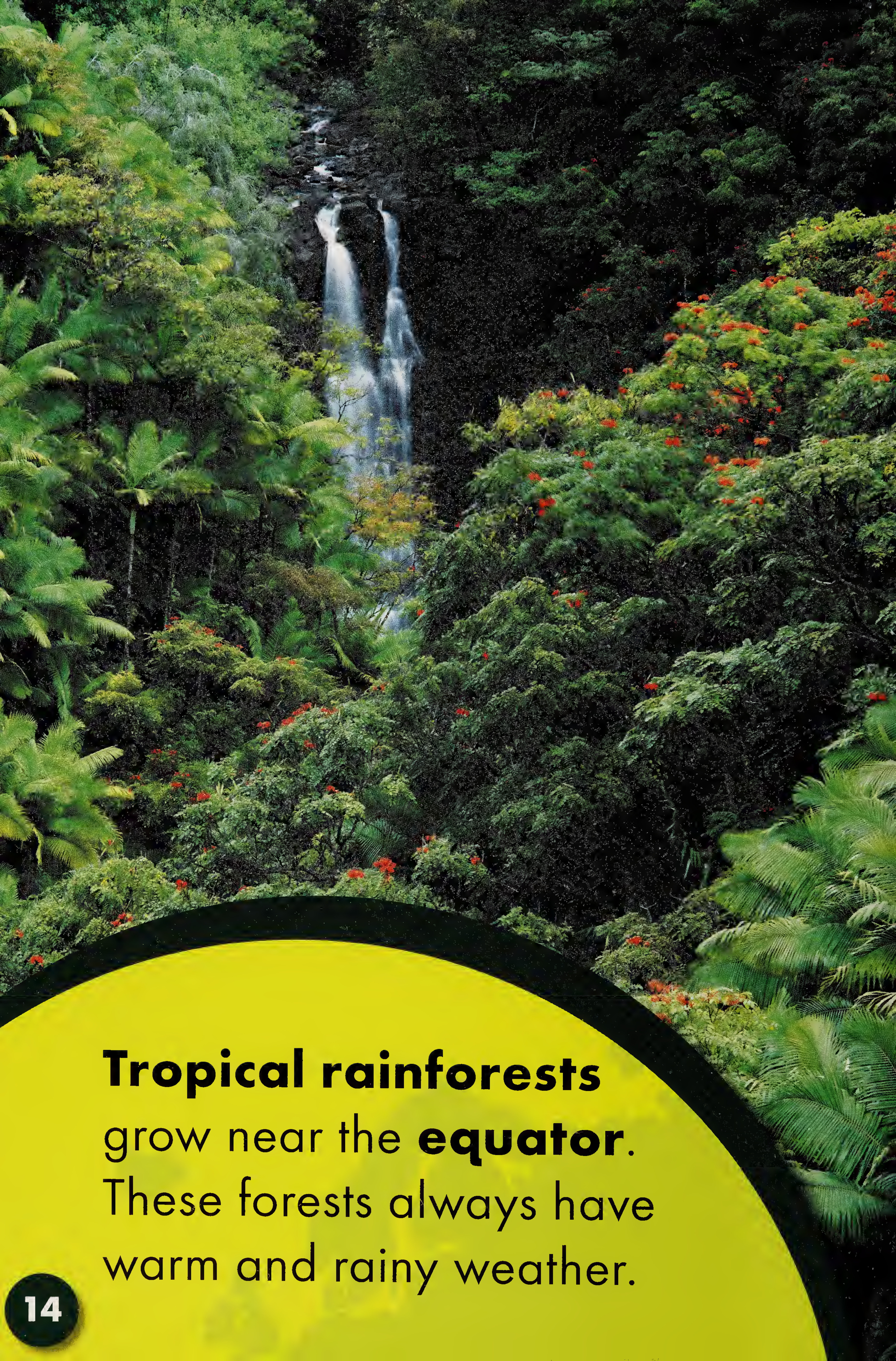
Most broad, flat leaves change color and fall to the ground in autumn.



Most trees with broad, flat leaves are **bare** in winter. Leaves grow back on the trees in spring and stay green all summer.

Oak, maple, and beech are some kinds of trees with broad, flat leaves.

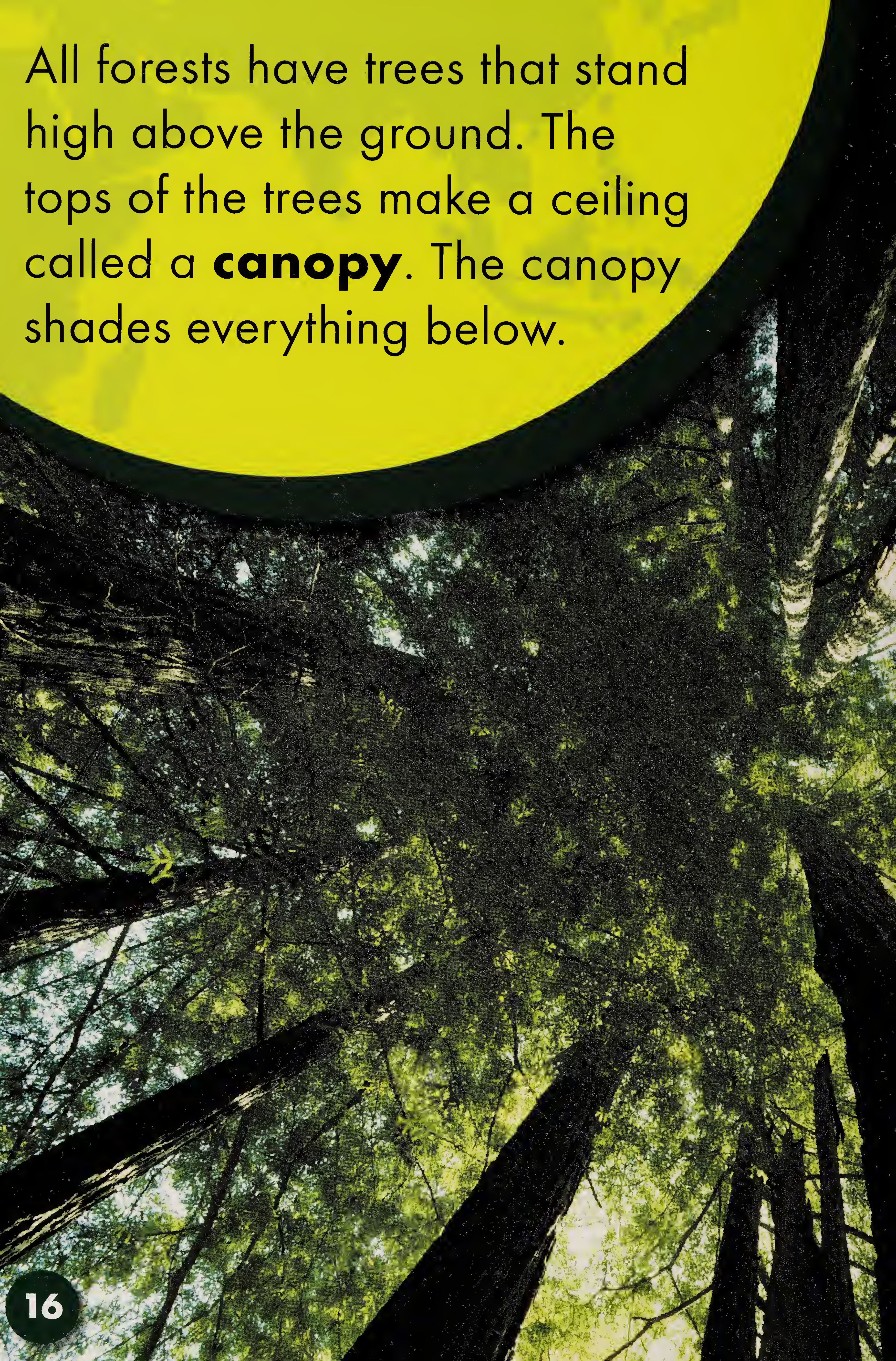




Tropical rainforests grow near the **equator**. These forests always have warm and rainy weather.

Tropical rainforests have more kinds of plants and animals than any other place on Earth.

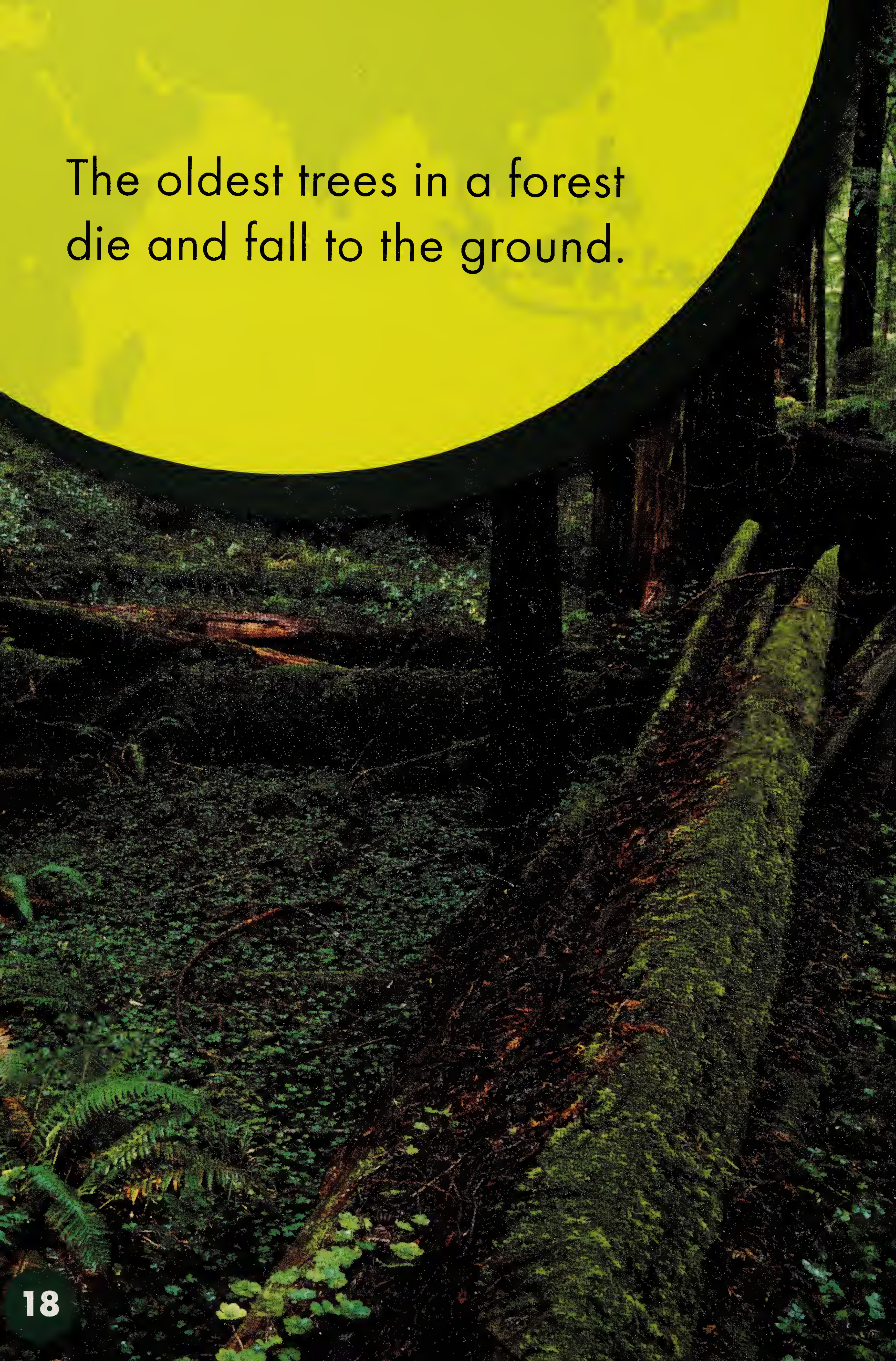




All forests have trees that stand high above the ground. The tops of the trees make a ceiling called a **canopy**. The canopy shades everything below.



Smaller trees, bushes, and plants grow in the shade of the canopy.



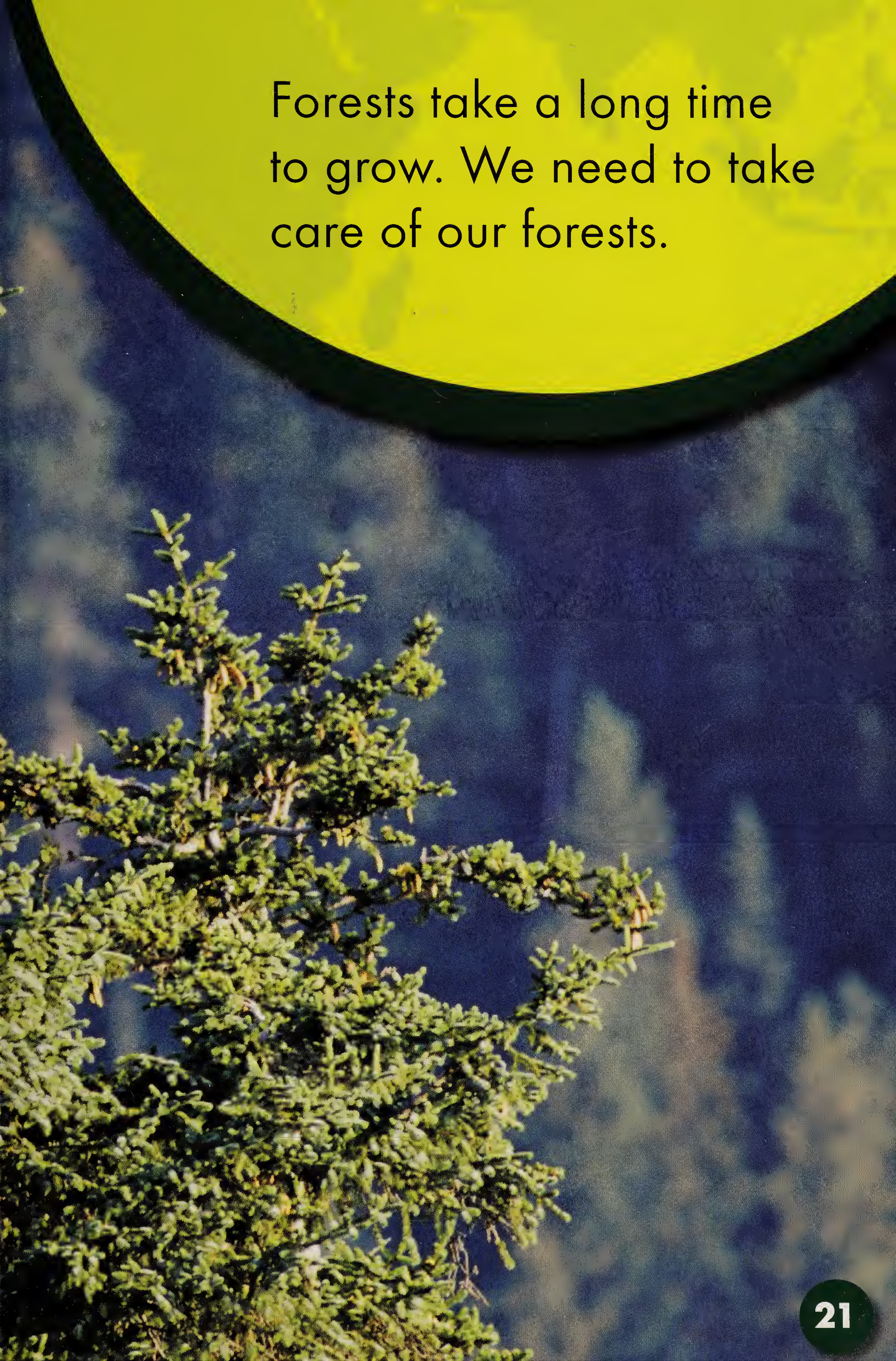
The oldest trees in a forest die and fall to the ground.

After they fall, the old trees **rot** and turn into dirt. New trees sprout in the dirt. Some day this tree may grow to be the tallest in the forest.





Forests give **shelter** to animals. Birds make their nests in the trees.



Forests take a long time to grow. We need to take care of our forests.

Glossary

bare–trees that have no leaves

canopy–a kind of ceiling over the forest made by the overlapping branches of tall trees

equator–the imaginary line that goes around the middle of planet Earth

evergreen–trees that keep their leaves all through the year

needles–sharp spines on some evergreen trees

redwood–a very tall evergreen tree

rainforest–a kind of forest near the equator where a lot of rain falls all year long

rot–to fall apart

shelter–a safe place

tropical–places that are close to the equator where the weather is warm and rainy

To Learn More

AT THE LIBRARY

Cherry, Lynne. *The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1990.

Gibbons, Gail. *Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees For Kids*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 2002.

de Hugo, Pierre. *In the Forest*. New York: Scholastic, 2001.

Leavell, Chuck. *The Tree Farmer.* Alexandria, VA: VSP Books, 2005.

Pyers, Greg. *Forest Explorer.* Chicago, Ill.: Raintree, 2004.

ON THE WEB



Learning more about forests is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Go to www.factsurfer.com
2. Enter "forests" into search box.
3. Click the "Surf" button and you will see a list of related web sites.

With factsurfer.com, finding more information is just a click away.

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LEVEL 3: EARLY FLUENT

Caves
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